

DECEMBER

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624 WASHINGTON AVE
MONTGOMERY AL 36130-0100

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Britainy Mobley
accepted to
Samford's School
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The Elba Clipper

Volume 107, Number 25

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, December 4, 2003

1 Section, 12 Pages Plus 1 Adv. Insert

Skydiving and MLRS demonstration coming to Elba National Guard Armory on Saturday, Dec. 6

by Linda Hodge, Editor

Recent training efforts of the Elba National Guard unit will be highlighted this weekend during its Open House/Family Day.

The local unit, more officially known as B Battery of the 3rd Battalion headquartered in Troy, has completed its training with the Multiple Launcher Rocket System (MLRS) and will display the equipment Saturday, Dec. 6, at the National Guard Armory, located on Larkin Road (airport road) in Elba, beginning at 9 a.m.

The MLRS is a \$2.8 million deep strike vehicle designed to reach its enemy at large distances, and the Elba guard unit has been training to use the MLRS since March of 2002.

This vehicle was designed to replace the old Persian System, and it can put its crew within one meter of its target anywhere in the world. It can hit a target at a maximum distance of 386 km or 181.5 miles while being able to fire both missiles and rockets.

The MLRS crew can fire two missiles within 20 seconds or 12 rockets within 60 seconds.

The missiles can travel the maximum distance previously mentioned while the rockets can travel a distance of 71 km or 45 miles.

During Saturday's Open House/Family Day for the Elba National Guard unit, the guardsmen will perform mock missions to demonstrate this "highly technical - very devastating" piece of equipment. There will also be video of the first live fire

to be conducted from any guard unit in Alabama, as well as, several other displays.

Also, SKYDIVE HEADLAND from Headland, Ala. will be on hand to entertain those in attendance with their skydiving skills - weather permitting. The skydiving activity is expected to begin at approximately 9 a.m., and the public is invited to come and watch this presentation.



The guardsmen of the Elba National Guard unit have completed training with the Multiple Launcher Rocket System (shown above). They will perform mock missions to demonstrate the equipment Saturday, Dec. 6, during their Open House/Family Day at the armory in Elba.

State Board of Education completes consolidated review

Elba City School System receives high marks

by Linda Hodge, Editor

Usually, review is a term used by teachers to better prepare their students for an upcoming test, but these days, the word review creates anxiety within everyone at a school system as students, teachers and administrators all continuously find themselves under the watchful eye of some sort of review team.

The Elba City School System recently completed one of these type reviews as the state board of education implemented a consolidated review of the system.

"Our school system and staff

has really been under the gun lately," Elba City School Superintendent Danny Weeks said. "I am proud to report we received very high marks in all areas of the consolidated review, and I commend the staff on its accomplishments."

Weeks said the school system used to undergo a consolidated review every five years, but it is now done every three years.

With this review, a 15 member team visits the campus and schools for three days and looks at everything from books and instruction to campus safety and transportation.

"This review team is actually

made up of state department personnel," Weeks said. "They go to all the school systems and are trained to look for violations."

He said the review team closely looks at everything the school system does including: administration and finance, the Professional Education Personnel Evaluation (PEPE) Program, all federal programs, instruction, career technical education, prevention and support services, technology, transportation and child nutrition.

Weeks said the review revealed the team was most pleased in the areas of instruction, career technical education and evaluation where not one citation was given. As for the other areas, he said there were only small citations such as suggesting "an additional eye wash in the chemistry lab."

"They were very pleased with our campus and safety," he said. One commendation from the team concerning safety was the new fence around the playground at the elementary school. Weeks said the fence was recently installed around the playground with funds acquired from a grant the school system



The newly installed fence around the Elba Elementary School playground received commendations from the state's consolidated review team. This fence was among several different things to impress the review team in regards to campus safety.

Please See ELBA, Page 3



NEW OFFICE LOCATION.The Elba Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting ceremony Monday, Nov. 24, for Mart Gray's office of the Alabama Baptist Cooperative Fellowship. Gray recently moved his office to its new home on the square in downtown Elba along Simmons Street. Those present for the official ribbon cutting were (from left): Destiny Hudson, Kaye Whitworth - executive director of the Elba Chamber of Commerce, Mary Gray, Future Little Miss Elba Annisley Padgett, Mart Gray, Renee Lambert, Jimmy Harrison - president of the Elba Chamber of Commerce board, Doris Matthews, Miss Elba Anna Anderson and Herby McCall.

Collision sends one to the hospital



A two-vehicle collision at the intersection of the 203 Bypass and Hickman Avenue in Elba Tuesday, Nov. 25, resulted in one person being transported to the hospital for injuries sustained. The Elba Police Department received notification of the accident at approximately 11:53 a.m. last Tuesday morning, and upon arrival officers found one vehicle overturned. A 1991 Ford Aerostar van being driven by Ronnie Joe Edwards, age 31, of Elba, skidded and overturned after colliding with a 1977 Ford Ranger pickup truck being driven by Jodie Lee Johnson, age 24, also of Elba. According to the accident report, Edwards was traveling East on Hickman Ave. when he ran the red light at the intersection resulting in the collision with Johnson who was traveling North on the 203 Bypass. A passenger in Edwards' vehicle, Jesse Whitfield, age 34, of Elba, was transported by Coffee County EMS to Elba General Hospital after receiving treatment by paramedics at the scene. The accident was investigated by officers Kevin Wise and Dalton Francis.

Winter Weather Awareness Week set for Dec. 1-5

Gov. Bob Riley has proclaimed December 1-5, 2003 as Winter Weather Preparedness Week in Alabama, and the Coffee County Emergency Management Agency joins the National Weather Service and the Alabama Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) in promoting winter weather safety.

One may not think of Alabama as a state that is directly impacted by severe winter weather because the state is situated in the middle of the Deep South. However, there have been years when winter weather has caused deaths and injuries.

An example is the blizzard of 1993 when a snow storm of record proportion hit Alabama. More than 13 inches of snow fell during a 24-hour period in the Birmingham area and impacted many other areas of the state.

In light of that possibility, here are some winter safety rules:

- Check battery powered equipment before the storm arrives. You may have to depend on a portable radio or TV for weather information.
- Check your food supply and

stock with items that do not require cooking or refrigeration in case of power failure. Ensure you have a manual can opener.

• Check your supply of heating fuel and prevent fire hazards from fireplaces or other heating sources.

• Get you car winterized and keep water out of your fuel by keeping your tank full. Also carry a winter storm car kit, especially if your travel plans include

areas that could be affected by winter weather.

• Make necessary trips for supplies before storms develop and wear layered loose-fitting clothing.

Don't forget that NOAA Weather Radio provides continuous weather broadcasts 24 hours a day, every day of the year. For more details, visit the county's web site at www.ccema.com and select **Preparedness Information**.

Holiday season set to begin in Elba and New Brockton with Christmas parades

The sites and sounds of the Christmas season will soon fill the streets of New Brockton and Elba as each is planning annual Christmas parades.

The Town of New Brockton will begin the holiday festivities on Saturday, Dec. 6, with its Christmas parade set to begin at 5 p.m.

Immediately following the parade, spectators are encouraged to come to the town park, located next to New Brockton Town Hall, for the annual lighting of the town's Christmas tree. During this activity, everyone

will have an opportunity to sing Christmas carols and enjoy refreshments. Also, there may be a special visit from the big guy himself - Santa Claus.

The City of Elba will present its 2003 Christmas parade Monday, Dec. 8, at 5:30 p.m.

This event will be led by a special float from the New Season's Study Club accepting donations of canned foods. These items will be donated to those in need during the holidays.

Everyone is encouraged to attend these special holiday events.

Area Happenings

THE COFFEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION will hold its regular monthly meeting Thursday, Dec. 4, at 11 a.m., at the Board of Education office located on Reddick Hill in Elba.

THE COFFEE COUNTY COMMISSION will meet Monday, Dec. 8, at 9 a.m., in the community room of the county complex, in New Brockton.

THE NEW BROCKTON TOWN COUNCIL will meet Monday, Dec. 8, at 7 p.m., in the council chambers at New Brockton Town Hall.

THE ELBA CITY COUNCIL will meet Tuesday, Dec. 9, at 5:30 p.m., in the council chambers at Elba City Hall. This meeting is being held on Tuesday rather than Monday due to the Christmas Parade.

THE ELBA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL D.A.R.E. PROGRAM will hold its graduation ceremony for sixth grade students Friday, Dec. 12, at 9 a.m., in the cafeteria. Everyone is invited to attend.

NOTICE

The Coffee County Water Authority will begin Phase II of its water system expansion with a sign-up meeting Thursday, Dec. 11, at 6:30 p.m., at the Fellowship Hall of the New Hope Baptist Church.

This includes the north-west part of Coffee County, and 200-600 sign-ups are needed. This phase will be the last chance residents have to bring the water system to their part of the county.

The sign-up fee is \$25. For more information or to sign up, call the Coffee County Water Authority office at 894-5352.

EDITORIAL

BRAINSTORMS
with Ferrin Cox

It is hard to imagine a pile of money totaling over \$5.3 million "hidden" in the back of a semi truck, yet that is just what law officers reported finding last Wednesday evening in South Texas. It took from then until late Thursday to finish counting the bundles of cash. We saw the 1/2 million plus dollars State Trooper R. W. Whitworth discovered several years ago during a routine traffic stop and that pile of money bogged our mind, but this latest find is ten times larger!

A salute to Alabama Governor Bob Riley for speaking out on the Auburn University coaching situation. Now we don't care who they hire for a coach... there or at Alabama (or any of these schools of higher learning), but the power brokers behind that mess in Auburn were wrong, wrong, wrong. The list of exactly what they did wrong is long but clearly self-serving on behalf of both the crew that flew to Kentucky and those behind the scene encouraging the trip. The continuous press leaks about the coach's future at Auburn University being shaky were designed to undermine fan moral and support for Coach Tuberville. Yet after the Tigers beat the Crimson Tide things got very quiet from the rumor mill. Then after the governor stepped in, the whole bunch started either backpeddling or ducking for cover. There has still been no one to step forward and take the blame for engineering the mess. Probably never will be, but we have our ideas. You probably have ideas also.

Oh, so not to be left out, Alabama officials jumped in for their share of dumb actions the same week by firing a male cheerleader. This was the guy who left the Auburn cheering squad and became an Alabama cheerleader only to be fired for his War Eagle yell on national TV. Our take on that was (and is) that he did something asked for by a TV announcer... all in fun, which is what "games" were originally intended to be. What Alabama folks should have exploited was the fact that he LEFT Auburn and transferred to Alabama. Without saying, nor caring, why he changed schools, it would have made far more points outside the fanatical Tide group than what they did do.

Last week we received an e-mail copy of the results on the latest AEA poll dealing with the state's economy and financial needs. A quick scan of the numbers is enlightening to say the least. It leaves us with the opinion that Governor Riley and the legislature can get the voters to approve additional taxes if they are asked for one at the time, and for a real documented need. Also any and all money requests must be preceded by a real (and successful) effort for accountability in state government. Now, many folks on the state payrolls (both as career employees, elected officials and as sellers of services) will feel the pinch of real accountability being demanded by the taxpayers. Of course that pinch is already being felt. However in the long run the state as a whole will benefit from such progressive actions.

Elba Police Report

The Elba Police Department, beginning Monday, Nov. 24, 2003, investigated the following incidents: two for criminal mischief, two for theft of property, one assault, one incident, one public intoxication, one child custody dispute, one interference with child custody and one dog bite.

The following arrests were made: one for public intoxication.

Traffic citations issued during the week were as follows: two for driving with a revoked driver's license, twelve for speeding, four for no insurance, one for reckless driving, one for running a stop sign, four for not wearing a seat belt, six for no proof of insurance, one for a switched tag, three for no driver's license and one for no tag.

Daily activity highlights for the week were as follows:

MONDAY, NOV. 24 - River stage - 3.70 feet (6:05 a.m.); Elba Fire Department dispatched to a vehicle fire in the Family Dollar Store parking lot (8:57 p.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to Hwy. 87 North (5:00 p.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 20668 Hwy. 87 North (8:08 p.m.).

TUESDAY, NOV. 25 - River stage - 6.33 feet (6:31 a.m.); Disturbance (in progress) reported at 1245 Martin Luther King Dr. (11:44 a.m.); Two-vehicle wreck reported on Hwy. 84 W next to Gene's Auto Sales (11:55 a.m.); Coffee County

Enterprise-Ozark Community College becomes a reality

by Stafford Thompson
President

Enterprise-Ozark Community College is now a reality, and it is my duty and pleasure to thank the citizens of this area for helping us embrace this role change.

Through the process of this merger we have seen the importance of tradition and the necessity of change. Certainly, there is a greater opportunity for growth than we have had in the recent past.

I also want to commend the

faculty and staff at all locations of EOCC. They have demonstrated a spirit of cooperation that smoothed the transition and ensured that we will be ready to

offer more programs to the citizens of Alabama. I am confident that we have asked, "How is it going?"

The first way to answer that question is to note that we have an

increase in the number of students enrolled.

Second, I would point out that we are working with the vendors in the aviation industry to redesign our Aviation Maintenance Program to bring it in line with the standards and needs of Army Aviation. The Department of Postsecondary Education (DPE) is studying the critical needs for vocational programs and put aviation at the top

of the list.

The DPE study will also assist the College in determining other programs that merit revision or development.

A final answer to that question is to note that the many and varied short-term training programs we are providing to our businesses and industries.

Three recent examples include welding, keyboarding, and

supervisory skills.

I reiterate my gratitude to all who have helped in this transition. A special email address, president@eoec.edu, has been created to receive your comments and suggestions for future programs, services, and improvements.

Survivors include three daughters: Melanie Hall, Clara (Johnny Kelley), Joyce Parker (Isiah), all of Elba; eight sons: Larry (Diane) Gilbert, Willie Parker, Dothan, Ala.; Billy (Christina) Parker, Christopher Parker, Ronnie Parker, Joseph (Eddie) Parker, all of Elba, Ala.; Anthony (Phyllis) Hall, Montgomery, Ala.; Gary (Valerie) Parker, Columbus, Ohio; one sister, Brenda Gilbert, Syracuse, N.Y.; 16 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be at Hayes Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

Visitation will be at Hayes Funeral Home on Thursday, Dec. 4, from 6-8 p.m.

Mr. Kelley was preceded in death by his wife, Elizabeth Reese Kelley.

Survivors include his sister: Mary Kota, Marysville, MI; and several nieces and nephews.

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Obituaries

HAZEL VIRGINIA GILBERT PARKER

Mrs. Hazel Virginia Gilbert Parker, age 63, died Nov. 20, 2003.

Funeral services were held Nov. 24, 2003 at Greater New Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Elba with Rev. W.L. Peterson officiating. Burial followed at Evergreen Cemetery with Coleman Funeral Home directing.

Survivors include three daughters: Melanie Hall, Clara (Johnny Kelley), Joyce Parker (Isiah), all of Elba; eight sons: Larry (Diane) Gilbert, Willie Parker, Dothan, Ala.; Billy (Christina) Parker, Christopher Parker, Ronnie Parker, Joseph (Eddie) Parker, all of Elba, Ala.; Anthony (Phyllis) Hall, Montgomery, Ala.; Gary (Valerie) Parker, Columbus, Ohio; one sister, Brenda Gilbert, Syracuse, N.Y.; 16 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

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Cemetery in Elba with Hayes Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

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Wright, Montgomery, Hurlie Lee Mosley, Baltimore, Md.; brother and sisters-in-law: Mrs. Ollie Mae (Hayward) Leon J. (Rozetta) Samson; and Mrs. Elba E. Holman, Oran, Maine; son-in-law: Jackie Bess, Newton, Ala.; two sisters-in-law: Marie Hall, Newton, Ala.; and Mary E. Toney, Birmingham; grand- and great-grandchildren.

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4, 2003 beginning at 2 p.m. with Min. Roger Dill officiating and Hayes Funeral Home directing.

Visitation will be at Hayes Funeral Home Thursday, Dec. 4, from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Thelma Wooten Brunson.

Survivors include his daughter and son-in-law: Minette and Don Kimbro, Montgomery; his son and daughter-in-law: Forrest Randall, Atlanta, Ga.; Mildred Brock and Kathleen Warren, both of Birmingham; Alene Ball, Davidson, S.C.; one brother: Lamar Brunson, Talladega, Ala.; and four grandchildren.

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ELBA

applied for and received.

He said other commendations from the review team included the journalism broadcast program at the high school, the school system's web page in which the team indicated was very informative for parents regarding upcoming events, the elementary school reading program and a two-hour uninterrupted block first thing every morning at the elementary school.

He also said the team commended the school system's two-way communication system for all buses. With this system, Weeks said the bus supervisor can contact individual buses when bad weather hits or when there is any other need for contact.

"Preparing for reviews means a lot of extra work for the staff, but the hard work has paid off in an excellent review," Week said. "I just want to thank each and every one and commend them for their efforts."

Small Ads Work...
You're Reading This One!!

Pre-need funeral planning now available at Hayes Funeral Home
For details Call 897-2225

COLEMAN FUNERAL HOME
and
COLEMAN & SOWELL
MEMORIAL & VAULT
COMPLETE CEMETERY WORK
We Serve With Dignity & Care
PRE-NEED FUNERAL & MONUMENT AVAILABLE
(334) 897-6148

A Message from Anne in Heaven

To my dearest family and friends, some things I'd like to say. But first of all, to let you know, that I Arrived okay. I'm writing this from Heaven. Here I dwell with God above. Here, there's no more tears of sadness; Here is just eternal love. Please do not be unhappy just because I'm Out of sight.

Remember that I am with you every Morning, noon and night. That day I had to leave you when my life on earth was through; God picked me up and hugged me and He said, "I welcome you. It's good to have you back again, you

CHURCH & AREA NEWS

Christian Mission to sponsor BBQ on Friday, December 5

The Christian Mission Centers will be sponsoring their Annual BBQ on Friday, December 5th. Tickets may be purchased at Christian Mission Stores or from the Office on Geneva Highway. Boston Butts will be ready on Wednesday, Dec. 3rd between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. BBQ sandwiches, and plates will be ready on Friday, Dec. 5 for pick-up at the Mission Centers. To order call 393-2607.

The Saint Beulah Missionary Baptist Church to celebrate 100th anniversary

The Saint Beulah Missionary Baptist Church is celebrating its 100th year church anniversary December 14, 2003 at 3:00 p.m. The guest speaker will be Rev. Dr. Julius R. Scruggs of First Missionary Baptist Church in Huntsville, Alabama.

Rev. Dr. Scruggs is Vice President at-large of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc. among his many accomplishments Rev. Scruggs completed requirements for a Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry from Vanderbilt University Nashville, Tennessee. He is married to the former Josephine Stewart Tipton and they are proud parents of two children and grand-children of three children.

ROUND & ABOUT WITH ERIA 897-2006

Scripture: Psalm 23

***Thinking of you, praying for you: Clarence Taylor, John E. Folmar, Willie Lee Cross, Versie Barnes, Julia Phillips, Lovie Head, Ernestine Kelley, Bettye Kelley, Mary Batie, Bettye English, Mary E. Kelley, Mary Alice Blue and Clarence Jones.

***Thanksgiving Day, November 27, 2003 Myron and Maria Duncan of Elba were host to a number of relatives and friends in their home for dinner. Those enjoying the delicious meal were: Ronnie and Kimberly Russell, Evelyn Manning, Jason and Mason Golley, Lydia, Tiffany, Brandy and Brandon Kelley, Melissa Kelley, from Alabama State University, Montgomery, Alabama, Connie Moody, Curtis Kelley and Braxton, Tyronne

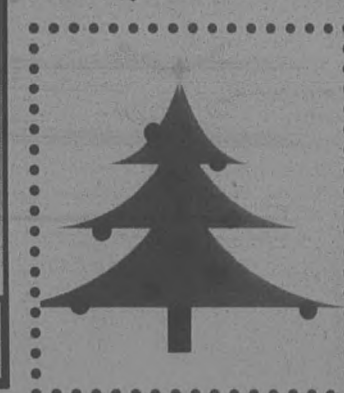
St. Luke United Methodist Church to hold Annual Drive-Through Live Nativity December 13 & 14

St. Luke United Methodist Church in Enterprise will hold their Annual Drive-Through Live Nativity, The nine-scene event will be held on Saturday and Sunday, December 13 and 14, from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. St. Luke United Methodist Church

is located on Heath Street near Enterprise High School.

Christmas Play to be presented at Mt. Olive Baptist Church

"Christmas in Pine Level" a meaningful and delightful story of Christmas in a small town will be presented by the children and youth ministry members of the congregation on December 21, 2003, at 6:00 p.m. A special Christmas meal will be prepared by the men of the congregation following the program. Mt. Olive is located in the Pine Level Community. Bro. Tony Dye, pastor, and the congregation invites everyone to spend the holidays at Mt. Olive.



Ken, Freda, Alex & Alicia Stroup

Elba Church of God's revival services set for December 11-13

The Elba Church of God is holding revival services from December 11th through the 13th. Ken Stroup will be the evangelist. Service will begin at 7 PM each night.

Ken Stroup is the featured evangelist for "Voice of Hope" Ministries which sponsors the "Season of Hope" Web Ministry. He is an ordained Bishop in the Church of God. He has been in full-time ministry for the past twenty-seven (27) years. Ken serves the Lord in an evangelistic ministry that is primarily centered in the state of Alabama, but he has ministered in many different states and different denominations. He has spoke in various camp meetings and conferences throughout the Southeast. Ken has served the Church of God in many different positions during the past twenty-seven years including Associate Pastor, District Youth and C.E. Director. He currently serves as a "State Evangelist" on the Alabama evangelist team. He has served on the State of

Zion Chapel PTO to meet December 4

The Zion Chapel PTO will meet Thursday, December 4th at 6:00 p.m. at the high school auditorium. Everyone is urged to attend this meeting.



The Vineyard Christian Retreat to sponsor gospel singing

The Vineyard Christian Retreat Center in Arton is sponsoring a gospel singing for the kids. Toys will be collected to be distributed to needy children in the area. The singing will be held on Friday, December 12th beginning at 6:30 p.m. Featured groups will be Oasis, The Hair Family, Souled Out and others. For more information call 334-762-2256.

Enterprise Christmas Parade planned for December 9

The Enterprise Christmas Parade will be at 6:00 p.m., December 9th, from North Main Street to South Main Street. The theme is, "Christmas-A Family Tradition." The public is cordially invited to attend this annual event that includes a special visit from Santa Claus.

Gospel Singing to be held at County Line Baptist Church

County Line Baptist, Enterprise, will be hosting The Garretts for a county gospel concert on Saturday, December 6, 2003 at 6pm. The Garretts are a husband and wife musical team from Toronto, Canada. More info on the Garretts can be found at www.garrettscountry-gospel.com. County Line is located four miles South of Enterprise at 1000 Hwy 92, just off Hwy 167. Phone: 347-6082.

Christmas Portrait Specials

Now is the time to capture Christmas memories with beautiful portraits. Come by and see our selection of Christmas cards and let us tell you about our special package prices and discounts. Also, the new Elba Courthouse ornaments are going fast, so come in to purchase yours today!

English Photography 897-8777 or 897-6233

COMMUNITY NEWS

2003 Coffee County Farm City awards recently were presented for several categories



PEANUT AWARD (50-250 ACRE PLUS). This award was presented to Bret Dalrymple who has spent his life farming in the Mount Pleasant community of Coffee County. Along with the 411 acres he owns, Dalrymple rents almost 800 acres of farmland. 89 acres are pasture. This year, he planted 637 acres of cotton and 236 acres of peanuts. Accepting the award were (from left): Kim, Dylan, Dakota, Bret and Dalton Dalrymple.



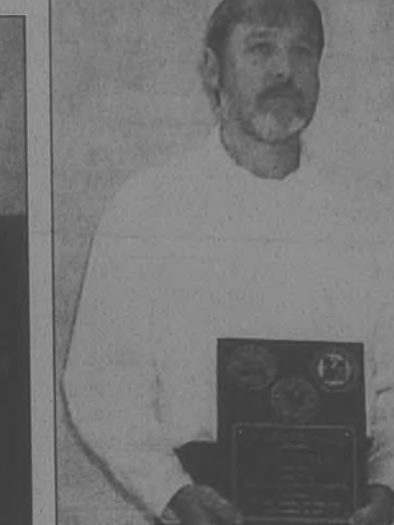
PEANUT AWARD (250 ACRE PLUS). This award went to C&J Farms, formerly in 1990 by Sammy Carter and Jarrod Johnston. C&J Farms consists of 350 acres of peanuts, 850 acres of cotton, 70 hay and 235 acres of corn for a total of 1,505 acres.



2003 FARM OF DISTINCTION. This award was presented to The Rhoades Farm (W.H. and Glenn Rhoades). Located near the Town of Kinston, W.H. and Glenn Rhoades have made a name for being top notch managers of their farm and also being good neighbors and friends in their community. W.H. started the operation in 1943 with a small peanut and corn operation. Glenn had his first crop at 16-years-old, and his first crop with his father was in 1976. Today, W.H. and Glenn farm the following acreage: 144 acres of peanuts, 175 acres of cotton, 140 acres of rice and oats which is cut and sold for feed and 49 acres of planted pines. Those pictured above include (from left): Steve Wyrodk, Peggy and Glenn Rhoades, and Steven Bozeman.



WAYNE FARMS HEN PRODUCER. This award was presented to William R. and Carmelita Hawthorne. They began farming in 1980 and farmed peanuts and soybeans. In 1994, they started growing breeder hens with Wayne Farms. They farmed approximately 500 acres and also had brood cows. In 2003, they retired from row cropping and now have 100 brood cows and the hen farm. John Gilley (right) presented the award to Mr. and Mrs. Hawthorne.



WAYNE FARMS TOP BROILER PRODUCER. This award was presented to Jerry and Gayla Hollis. Jerry has been a broiler producer with Wayne Farms since 1990, and he was the top broiler producer in 1997 and 1998. He also received recognition of Outstanding Broiler Performance in 1997, 1999 and 2002. Jerry (left) accepted the award from Terry Kilcrease (right).



WAYNE FARMS PULLETT GROWER OF THE YEAR. This award was presented to Shere Creek Farm, owned and operated by Wiley and Ann Vann. This farm is located in the Victoria community of Coffee County. The Vanns started their poultry business in 1998 with two pullet houses and one male house. In 2000, they added two more pullet houses and another male house. Wiley and Ann Vann accepted the award from Boyd Pylon (right).



LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION AWARD. This award was presented to Preston, Charles, Carl, Myrtle, Renee, Jarrod and Ethan Lott. This family farm began in 1971 with six cows, 100 acres of land, 10 acres of peanuts, 15 acres of corn, 25 acres of pasture and 50 acres of hay. Today, the farm encompasses 350 cows, 520 acres of land, 425 acres of rented land, 30 acres of corn silage, 30 acres of grain silage, 10 chicken houses (1,020,000 birds) and 50 acres of timber. Max Bozeman made the presentation to the Lott family.



COTTON AWARD. This award went to Wallace Farms which consists of Delone, Levarl and Terry Wallace. Changes in the peanut program have made Wallace Farms more dependent on cotton, and they now enjoy growing almost 1,000 acres. Levarl Wallace is shown above with the award.



LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION AWARD. This award was presented to Hussey Farms (Glenn, Otha and Dan Hussey). The Hussey Farm is located just south of Enterprise and has been around since 1951 when Mr. Otho started farming. Today, they own over 400 acres of land and rent over 2,000 acres. This consists of 575 acres of pasture and hay land, 450 acres of peanuts, 700 acres of cotton, 400 acres of corn and 370 acres of cows. The award was presented by Max Bozeman (far right). Members of the Hussey family accepting it were Dan, Linda, Beth, Glenn, Otha and Eldessie (Det) Hussey.



LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION AWARD. This award was presented to Smith Family Farms. This farm is located north of Elba along Hwy. 125 and north of Thames Bridge in the Zoar community. It is owned and operated by Dean and Dennis Smith, the sons of Arthur D. and Audrey Smith. Dean and Dennis grew up helping their dad with his hog operation until 1988 when Audrey decided she had enjoyed the aroma of hog pens long enough. She purchased Arthur D. two commercial heifers and today Smith Family Farms has 155 Brangus mama cows and bred heifers, 600 acres of row crops, pasture and timber. They lease an additional 600 acres of crop and pasture land. The award was presented by Max Bozeman (right) and accepted by (from left) Dean, Pam, Deann, Jan and Dennis Smith.



Other awards presented included... Business of the Year - Lucky Lawn Service, Inc. Lucky Lawn began as a partnership between Howard Maddox and his son Kevin Maddox in 1984. The company offered fertilization and weed control for pre-existing turf. The company incorporated in 1989 and expanded its services to include landscaping and irrigation installation and repairs. At present, the company is owned and operated by Kevin Maddox, Stan Cook and Bob Hancock. They employ from 20-25 local residents.



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WARD'S PRINTING

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IN HIM WAS LIFE AND THE LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF MEN

ALBERTON BAPTIST CHURCH
Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m.
Even. Worship.....6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service.....7:00 p.m.

BASIN BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Sam Tatum, Pastor
Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m.
Even. Worship.....6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service.....6:30 p.m.

BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. John L. Baxter, Pastor
Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m.
Even. Worship.....6:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Class.....6:30 p.m.

BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH
Barry Caldwell, Pastor
Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m.
Wed. Bible Class.....6:30 p.m.

BILLY SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH
Tom Senn, Pastor
Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m.
Even. Worship.....6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service.....6:30 p.m.

BROOKLYN BAPTIST CHURCH
Robert Davis, Pastor
Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m.
Even. Worship.....6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service.....6:30 p.m.

CHERRY GROVE METHODIST CHURCH
Rev. Martha Baxter
Church Service.....9:00 a.m.
2nd & 4th Sundays
Sunday School.....9:00 a.m.
1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays
Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.
2nd & 4th Sundays

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST
E.H. Hill, Minister
Sunday School.....11:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m.
1st, 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Sundays
1st, 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Sundays

DAMASCUS BAPTIST CHURCH
Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m.
Even. Worship.....6:00 p.m.
Wed. Prayer Service.....7:00 p.m.

DORCAS BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor: Don Grantham
Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m.
Even. Worship.....6:00 p.m.
Prayer Meeting.....7:00 p.m.

ELBA BAPTIST CHURCH
Tim Gannell, Minister
Bible Study.....9:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship.....10:00 a.m.
Even. Service.....7:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

ELBA CHURCH OF GOD
Ron Stallard, Pastor
Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m.
Even. Service.....6:00 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

ELBA CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY
J.E. Wesley, Pastor
Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m.
Sunday Afternoon.....2:30 p.m.
Wed. Service.....7:00 p.m.

ELBA CHURCH OF GOD TABERNACLE
Allen Richards, Pastor
Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.
Morn. Worship.....11:00 a.m.
Even. Service.....6:00 p.m.
Wed. Service.....7:00 p.m.

ELBA HA ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Pastor Rev. Roy Davis
Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.
Morn. Worship.....10:30 a.m.
Even. Service.....6:00 p.m.
Wed. Service.....7:00 p.m.

ELBA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Rev. John L. Baxter, Pastor
Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.
Morn. Worship.....10:00 a.m.
Even. Service.....6:00 p.m.
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SPORTS

Views from...

The Pressbox

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

While everyone in my family enjoyed Thanksgiving dinner last week, I don't know who enjoyed the leftovers the most - me or my dog! I munched down on the various leftovers until Saturday night, while the dog got to chow down on turkey bones Thanksgiving afternoon and then got what was left on the plates the rest of the week. Yep, me and "Coach" enjoyed the holiday goodies.

FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH...

*** The Elba Tigers posted two wins and one loss last week in the New Brockton Thanksgiving Tournament to bring home the consolation trophy for their third place finish. The Tigers didn't exactly light up the scoreboard in any of their three games and averaged less than 46 points a game, but did show they could score inside as Marchello Reed, Quinton Gavin and Kikko Logan all showed their ability to muscle in for points. Elba didn't take many shots from behind the arc, but did hit a couple and my guess is that the three-pointers will come as the season rolls along. The most impressive part of the Tigers' game was their aggressive play on defense. Elba hustled all over the court throughout every game and made it clear that this year's Tigers would take advantage of their quickness to disrupt opposing offenses. If the Tigers can play as aggressive on offense and start putting more points on the scoreboard, they may just have a bunch of wins up their sleeves.

*** The Elba Lady Tigers were eliminated in the opening round of the tournament and simply could not get their shots to drop in the loss to Rehobeth. Elba's girls hustled for all four quarters and played hard on both offense and defense, they just missed far too many open shots from inside and out to claim the win. LaFondra and Tunisia - the "Thigpen Sisters," both had big games and scored a total of 32 points in the loss, which should open up Ayonna Proctor from the outside and take some pressure off the senior guard. Elba's girls will lose some games early on and their record may not shine, but I think they will get better and better as the season goes and will be a factor come tournament time. The key for the Lady Tigers will be improvement, not wins.

*** New Brockton and Zion Chapel both stayed busy over the holidays in various tournaments, and gave their fans a preview of things to come. The Gamecocks were ousted in the opening round of their own tournament, but showed they could play with any team on their schedule when they play well. It will take four good quarters of basketball for New Brockton to win, not just two or three, and when the Gamecocks put it all together they could very well be the surprise team in the area. The Rebels upset Arton in the opening round of the Arton tournament before falling in the finals to 4A Dale County, but showed that this season they will play to win and not just come to respect. Zion Chapel has always been hard to beat on its home court, and after the win in Arton, may now make some of their opponents believe that the Rebels must be taken seriously, even when they are on the road. As for the girls teams at both schools, the Lady Gamecocks are in a rebuilding mode and may find wins hard to come by, while the Lady Rebels need to forget the scoreboard and work hard to improve each and every time they take the court. The wins will come for both teams, but they might be few and far between.

*** The "Super Six" high school football finals will be held this week in Birmingham and two local teams will head to Legion Field looking to bring home a state championship trophy. In Class 2A, Coach Mike Dubose will lead his Luverne Tigers into battle and while the turf will be familiar territory for Coach Dubose, it will mark the first time in years the Tigers have made it to the title game. Luverne started slow this season and at times looked like anything but a state title contender, but Coach Dubose put his plan in place and as the team got comfortable the wins began to pile up. Maybe now Paul Finchem knows why the folks in Luverne hired the ex-Bama coach! The second area team to make it to Birmingham is the Pike County Bulldogs. Coach Wayne Grant and his troops defeated defending State champ T.R. Miller in overtime to earn their ticket to the finals, and now everyone in the state will get the chance to see Chris Nickson do his thing. The Pike County quarterback is widely considered the most exciting player in the state, high school or college, and I hope he plays his best this week and proves to everyone that he is indeed a major college quarterback.

*** The only thing the officials at Auburn are guilty of in connection with looking for a new football coach is getting caught. Anyone who thinks college officials always do things the right way is crazy and has forgotten all about how Tommy Tuberville led to his Ole Miss followers the day before coming to Auburn; or how the folks up in Louisville went after Auburn assistant Bobby Petrino just last year and disrupted the Tigers as they were preparing for their bowl game. I agree there is a right way and a wrong way to go about hiring a coach away from another school, but the guess here is that if Tuberville and his Tigers had lost to Alabama not many Auburn fans would care what anyone said about going after a coach. The only thing that is clear is that the powers to be at Auburn are not happy with Tommy Tuberville and he should start his own job search, because his days on the Plains are numbered.

*** In closing...I have not been a die-hard Alabama fan since Gene Stallings got mad and quit, but I am happy that the Tide has finally put this year's disaster to rest and I won't have to watch them embarrass themselves anymore on national television. The loss to Hawaii last week was just another in a long line of losses that should not have happened, and at the moment I have to admit I have my doubts about Mike Shula. Brodie Croyle and many other Bama coaches and players. The first change should be to get rid of Mal Moore as athletic director, while the next should be concerning a change in coordinators. If Alabama makes some changes, at least it will make us think they know what they are doing, even though I have my doubts.

POLISH PROGNOSTICATOR PICKS PREPS

Ye Ole Polish Prognosticator dropped by early Sunday morning with this week's final high school football predictions and stated that after the last two weeks he was ready to hang it up for another season. The local guesstimate hit on 8 of 12 picks last week to move his yearly totals to 329-55, and here are this week's final picks...

CLASS 1A - Parrish 27 American Christian 21

CLASS 2A - Randolph County 14 Luverne 13

CLASS 3A - Pike County 34 Oneonta 28

CLASS 4A - Trinity 17 Deshler 15

CLASS 5A - Briarwood 24 Russellville 14

CLASS 6A - Daphne 28 Hoover 24

FOLLOW THE BOUNCING BALL
RIGHT HERE EACH WEEK IN...THE ELBA CLIPPER
SPORTS

Drop season opener

Elba Lady Tigers make early exit in tourney

The Elba Lady Tigers tipped off their basketball season last week in New Brockton/Southeast Sun Thanksgiving Tournament and made an early exit as they were eliminated in the opening round after a 53-47 loss to the Rehobeth Lady Rebels.

"I was very disappointed in our play in the tournament," stated Elba's Coach Leroy Canley. "We had been practicing for three weeks and did very little right. We worked hard on defense and scoring in transition, but didn't score one single point in transition against a team that didn't even press. I guess the only good thing about the tournament was that it allowed me to see where our weaknesses were and that the loss also gave us some extra time to practice. We have a very tough schedule coming up in the next two weeks and must improve in all areas or we will have a hard time getting a win. The girls are willing to work hard and will work hard to get better, but last week's showing over in New Brockton was very disappointing."

Elba jumped out to an early 3-0 lead in the opening quarter after a free-throw by Whitney Lawford and a driving lay-up by LaFondra Thigpen, and then went on a 6-0 run midway through the stanza to take a 9-4 lead with 3:40 left on the clock. A three-pointer by Tunisia Thigpen sparked the Lady Tiger rally, however, Rehobeth answered with a rally of its own as the Lady Rebels scored six straight points to take a 10-9 advantage with 1:41 still left in the quarter.

Elba trailed 12-11 heading into the second quarter and saw Rehobeth hold on to its lead until the closing minutes of the half, when the Lady Tigers went on a 5-0 run to take a 22-21 half-time advantage. LaFondra Thigpen scored four points during the late rally to lead the Lady Tigers, while Ayonna Proctor added a free-throw.

The Lady Tigers continued their surge in the early minutes of the third quarter and rode the play of LaFondra Thigpen to grab a 29-25 lead with 6:09 remaining in the stanza. Thigpen scored the first points of the half on a fast-break lay-up, then added a three-pointer and a long jumper to push the Lady Tigers to a four-point lead.

A three-pointer by Tunisia Thigpen put Elba back on top 32-29 with 3:54 left in the quarter, while a short jumper by Whitney Lawford gave the Lady Tigers a 34-31 lead with 2:34 on the clock. Lawford's basket was the last point Elba would score in the quarter, however, as Rehobeth closed with a 9-0 rally to take a 40-34 lead heading into the fourth quarter.

Ashleigh Waddall scored early in the final stanza on a put back to cut the Rehobeth lead to 40-36, but the Lady Rebels remained in control and after a basket by Rehobeth's Mallory Allen with 3:43 remaining, the Lady Rebels owned a big 50-40 advantage.

Tunisia Thigpen and Ashleigh Waddall combined to score seven straight points to tie the Lady Tigers pull within 50-47 with 49 remaining in the game, but Elba failed to score again and Rehobeth hit three of four



LADY TIGER DEFENSE...Elba's Tunisia Thigpen (30) blocks the path of a Rehobeth player in last week's season opening loss. Thigpen scored 17 points to lead the Lady Tigers in their season opener.

free-throws in the final 17 to hold on and eliminate Elba 53-47.

Tunisia Thigpen scored 17 points and LaFondra Thigpen added 15 to lead Elba. Angie Johnson scored 14 points for Rehobeth and Crystal Davis and Mallory Allen both added 11.

R 12 9 19 13 - 53
E 11 11 12 13 - 47

Rehobeth (53): Allen 11, Heygood 10, Davis 11, Johnson 14, Woodard 4, Chason 2.
Elba (47): Proctor 5, Lawford 3, Waddall 7, L. Thigpen 15, T. Thigpen 17.

High School
ROUNDBALL
ROUNDUP

Zion Chapel cages Purple Cats 59-50

The Zion Chapel Rebels opened the Arton Tip-Off Tournament with a bang last Tuesday night as they stunned the host Arton Purple Cats 59-50. Luke Taylor poured in 30 points to lead Zion Chapel, while Austin Smith added 13. Marquis Ward led Arton with 12 points and Joseph Vanzandt added 10.

Z.C. Lady Rebels fall to Florida 67-31

The Zion Chapel Lady Rebels competed in the Arton Tip-Off Tournament last week and dropped their opener to the Florida Lady Cats 67-31. No scoring details were available for either team.

Zion Chapel falls in finals to Warriors 76-46

The Zion Chapel Rebels were forced to settle for second place in last week's Arton Tip-Off Tournament after a 76-46 loss to Dale County in the championship game. Luke Taylor scored 14 points to lead the Rebels, while Tim Andrews and Jeremy Brown both scored 12 points to lead Dale County.

Z.C. Lady Rebels fall to Dale County 52-31

The Zion Chapel Lady Rebels closed out a winless visit to Arton last week by falling to Dale County 52-31, in the consolation game of the Arton Tip-Off Tournament. Jessica Kelley scored 16 points and pulled down 13 rebounds to lead Dale County, while Stephanie Curtis added 13 points.

New Brockton ousted in opener by Tigers 61-51

The New Brockton Gamecocks made an early exit from their own tournament last week as they lost to the Straughn Tigers 61-51, in the opening round action. The Gamecocks owned a 29-25 lead at the half, but saw Straughn take command in the final two quarters to pull away and claim the win. Brett Parrish scored 18 points to lead New Brockton, while Donnell Foster added 10. Jeremy Hunt scored 15 points to lead Straughn and Garrett Windham added 11 points and pulled down 6 rebounds.

Lady Gamecocks eliminated by Straughn 48-16

The New Brockton Lady Gamecocks fell behind early and never recovered as they were eliminated in opening round action by the Straughn Lady Tigers 48-16. The Lady Gamecocks scored only one point in the opening stanza, trailed 25-7 at the half and never threatened in taking the big loss. Maressa Loman scored 7 points and grabbed 8 rebounds to lead New Brockton, while Yameka Hall added 6 points and Alexa Adams scored 2. Danielle Beasley scored 18 points to lead Straughn, while Abby Bracewell added 8 points and grabbed 7 rebounds.



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SPORTS

Take consolation honors in tourney

Tigers run past Warhawks 53-43

The Elba Tigers raced out to a 16-2 first quarter lead and then turned back a furious fourth quarter challenge to defeat the Daleville Warhawks 53-43, on Saturday afternoon in the consolation game of the New Brockton/Southeast Sun Thanksgiving Tournament.

Daleville opened the game in an aggressive full-court press in an attempt to use its quickness, but the defensive pressure backfired as the Tigers easily pushed the ball down the court and then got the ball inside as Marchello Reed muscled his way inside to score the Tigers first seven points to help Elba open up a 7-2 lead with 5:31 remaining in the stanza.

A fast break basket by Mason Gulley and five straight points by LaRay Williams enabled Elba to extend its lead to 14-2 with 3:38 left in the quarter, while Duke Carr banked in a driving lay-up with 1:30 remaining as the Tigers moved on top 16-2 over the stunned Warhawks.

The Tigers' lead stood at 20-6 with 6:32 remaining in the second quarter after a short jumper by Marchello Reed, but Daleville finally began to show signs of life on offense and staged a mild rally to pull within 23-14 with 3:55 remaining in the half.

A three-pointer by Shawn Abbott sparked a 6-0 Elba run that pushed the Tigers ahead 29-14 with 1:42 left in the half, and at intermission Elba went into the dressing room with a big 29-16 advantage over the 4A Warhawks.

The Tigers continued to pound the ball inside early in the third quarter and used the scoring of Marchello Reed and Quinton Gavin to grab their biggest lead of the game at 34-16 with 6:51 remaining in the

quarter. Elba's lead stood at 36-20 with 5:12 left after a Reed basket inside. However, the Tigers went over four minutes without scoring another point and Daleville took advantage of Elba's scoring drought to go on a 9-0 run to pull within 36-29 with 1:36 still left in the stanza.

Quinton Gavin hit two free-throws with 1:09 remaining to put an end to the Tigers' long scoreless streak, and Matthew Curran drilled a long three-pointer with .09 remaining as Elba closed the quarter with four unanswered points to move on top 41-29.

Kikko Logan scored on a put back with 7:15 remaining in the fourth quarter to extend the Elba lead to 43-29, but Daleville again staged a rally and this time went on an 8-0 run to cut the Elba lead to 43-37 with 5:07 left on the clock.

Kikko Logan and Quinton Gavin scored from in close and Matthew Curran banked in a driving lay-up to spark an 8-0 Elba run that put the Tigers ahead 51-37 with 1:41 remaining, and Elba held on down the stretch to post the 53-43 win. Marchello Reed scored 13 points to lead Elba, while Quinton Gavin added 9. Randy Williams scored 16 points to lead Daleville. Elba hit on 19 of 34 free-throw opportunities in the game, while Daleville connected on only 2 of 12 chances.

E 16 13 12 12 - 53
D 4 12 13 14 - 43

Elba (53): Gulley 7, Williams 6, Gavin 9, Curran 7, Carr 2, Abbott 3, Logan 4, Suley 2, Abbott 3.

Daleville (43): Williams 16, Jones 4, Johnson 5, Frasier 2, Gringley 4, Walker 8, Tinsley 4.

Late Tiger rally falls short
in 48-45 loss to Straughn

The Elba Tigers saw a furious fourth quarter rally fall three points short Friday night as they fell to the Straughn Tigers 48-45, in the semi-final round of the New Brockton/Southeast Sun Thanksgiving Tournament.

Elba came out ready to play against its area rivals and behind the inside scoring of Quinton Gavin led for much of the opening stanza, only to see Straughn rally late to carry a 12-8 lead into the second quarter of play.

Both teams had problems finding the basket in the second quarter as the scoreboard seemed stuck at 12-8; however, Straughn closed the stanza with a 10-4 run and at halftime Elba found itself on the short end of a 22-12 score.

Elba matched Straughn bucket for bucket for much of the third quarter and used the inside power of Marchello Reed to stay within striking distance, only to see Straughn score the final six points of the stanza and open up a big 36-22 lead with only eight minutes remaining.

S 12 10 14 12 - 48
E 8 4 10 23 - 45

Elba came out in the fourth quarter in an aggressive full-court press and opened the stanza with an 11-4 run that cut the Straughn advantage to 40-33. The Tigers got as close as 43-39 with 1:58 left on a three-pointer

by Matthew Curran, but Straughn scored the game's next four points from the free-throw line to regain command with a 47-39 advantage.

Kikko Logan scored on a short jumper with 12 left to pull Elba within 47-42, and after Straughn hit one of two free-throws, Quinton Gavin nailed a long three-pointer to cut the lead to 48-45 with :04 remaining on the clock. The Tigers never got the ball back; however, and at the final horn Elba was still on the short end of the score and took the loss 48-45.

Kikko Logan scored 10 points and grabbed 8 rebounds to lead Elba, while Quinton Gavin added 10 points and pulled down 6 rebounds. Alphonsa Freaney scored 14 points to lead Straughn, while Jeremy Hunt and Sterling Driver both added 10 points.

S 12 10 14 12 - 48
E 8 4 10 23 - 45

Straughn (48): Hunt 10, Driver 10, Armstrong 7, Freaney 14, Windham 2, Kinsaul 1, Rabren 4.
Elba (45): Gulley 8, Williams 4, Gavin 10, Cooks 2, Curran 4, Reed 7, Logan 10.



Elba's Mason Gulley (3) looks for a teammate to pass to after getting airborne in last week's tournament win over Pleasant Home. The Tigers will host Enterprise Thursday night and New Brockton Saturday to compete a busy week of action.

Outdoors with Ben

by Ben Norman, Sports Columnist

Eliminating body odor tilts odds in hunter's favor

We all learned about the five senses: touch, taste, smell, hearing and sight in elementary school. Since it is highly unlikely any of us will get close enough to taste or touch a live deer, that leaves smell, hearing and sight to be concerned with while pursuing that elusive buck.

Eluding a buck's sense of sight is not too hard, especially if you can remain still. Camouflage clothing, including facemasks, can make a hunter blend in with their background foliage from early fall through winter.

Avoiding a buck's sense of smell is another matter altogether. Hunting from elevated platforms and tree stands puts our scent higher and usually allows for our scent to dissipate to some degree. But a strong downdraft of the prevailing wind can force our scent down from our elevated perch to the extent we are not much better off than if we were hunting from a ground stand.

Recent research suggests that the human odor can be almost eliminated for a period of three or four hours. After this time odor causing bacteria begins to grow on our body and odor increases as time passes. Eliminating odor begins with taking a bath, including washing hair, with an odor free soap or body cleanser such as the ones used by hospitals to kill bacteria. Since bacteria starts to grow rapidly after three hours, it is better to bathe just before going hunting.

A liberal application of baking soda to all parts of the body after a bath will extend your "scent free" time even farther. Put an extra dab under the arms and on the feet. Using a good non-scented deodorant will also buy you more scent free time.

Even if you take the above precautions, after three or four hours the bacteria will begin to grow. If you come in for lunch and can take another shower before going out on the afternoon hunt, so much the better. If it is impossible to take another shower, wiping off with a wet cloth, changing underwear and applying another dusting of baking soda and deodorant is the next best thing.

The warm humid weather of the south requires hunting clothes be washed more often than in other parts of the country. Sporting good stores stock an assortment of scent removing detergents, but you can do just as well with a baking soda based detergent. After washing you just as well use a baking soda based detergent. After washing you just as well use a baking soda based detergent. After washing you just as well use a baking soda based detergent.

THE FOUR WAY TEST

of the things we Think, Say or Do

- First - Is it the TRUTH?
- Second - Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- Third - Will it build GOOD WILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
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BRANDON CARPENTER, age 9, shot this 8-point buck while hunting with his Dad on Nov. 22, 2003. He is the son of Lee and Melinda Carpenter, of Elba.

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LIFESTYLES

NEWS FROM OUR SERVICE FOLKS

Betsy Adkinson graduates from U.S. Coast Guard Academy recently

Coast Guard Seaman Betsy Adkinson, daughter of Charlotte T. and Steven E. Adkinson of Elba, Ala., recently graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Recruit Training Center in Cape May, N.J.

During the eight-week training program, Adkinson completed a rigorous training curriculum consisting of classroom academics and practical instruction on water safety and survival, military customs and courtesies, seamanship skills, first aid, fire fighting and marksmanship. A major emphasis is also placed on physical fitness, health and wellness.

Adkinson and other recruits also received instruction on the Coast Guard's three core values

— honor, respect and devotion to duty — and how to apply them in their military performance and personal conduct.

Adkinson will join 36,000 other men and women who are the Coast Guard's force.

Men and women train together from the first day in the Coast Guard just as they do aboard ships and shore units throughout the world. To reinforce the team concept, Adkinson, and other recruits were trained in preventing sexual harassment, drug and alcohol awareness, civil rights training, and the basics of the work-life balance, as well as total quality management.

Adkinson is a 2003 graduate of Abeka Academy of Pensacola, Fla.

Jeremy Pippin graduates from U.S. Coast Guard Recruit Training

Coast Guard Seaman Jeremy M. Pippin, son of Cathy B. and Mark M. Pippin of Elba, Ala., recently graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Recruit Training Center in Cape May, N.J.

During the eight-week training program, Pippin completed a rigorous training curriculum consisting of classroom academics and practical instruction on water safety and survival, military customs and courtesies, seamanship skills, first aid, fire fighting and marksmanship. A major emphasis is also placed on physical fitness, health and wellness.

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Pippin is a 1997 graduate of Elba High School.

Three Arts Club in Opp to hold Christmas Tour of Homes

The Three Arts Club of Opp will be hosting a Christmas Tour of Homes on Sunday, December 7, 2003. This will be between the hours of 1:00 and 4:00 p.m.

There will be an admission charge of \$5.00.

Tickets can be purchased on

the day of the tour of Homes or at the Opp History House at 208 Whaley St.

Refreshments will be served at the History House, compliments of the Three Arts Club. For further information call Gay Lull at 493-1798.

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Mobley accepted into School of Pharmacy

Brittany Mobley has been accepted to the Samford University McWhorter School of Pharmacy; the Doctor of Pharmacy program is a four-year course of study. She was chosen as one of 116 out of 660 applicants.

Brittany transferred from Troy State University this past summer and began her studies in Pharmacy in August.

She is a 2000 graduate of

New Brockton High School. Parents are Wilson and Zelda Mobley of the Victoria Community. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. C.W. Mobley of Victoria, and Merle Bragg, also of Victoria.

Shown welcoming Brittany at the White Coat Ceremony is Dr. Joseph O. Dean Jr., Dean of the McWhorter School of Pharmacy at Samford University.

The Ranch House Cafeteria

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Regular Hours on Christmas Eve to serve you.

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2003 BUICK CENTURY - AT-6 - LS package - great buy!



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INSIDE

Amenda Reeves celebrates her sixth birthday

INSIDE

NB students compete at National 4-H competition

INSIDE

Father/Son duo enjoy successful football season together

The Elba Clipper

Volume 107, Number 26

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, December 11, 2003

1 Section, 14 Pages Plus 1 Adv. Insert

Santa visits New Brockton for parade



The holiday season officially began last weekend in New Brockton as the town held its annual Christmas parade and tree lighting ceremony. Many church groups, organizations and community businesses weathered the cold temperatures to show off their holiday spirit. From riding floats decorated in colors representing the season to wearing attire recognized for the occasion, the Christmas event was certainly one for all ages to enjoy. Even St. Nick himself got in on the fun as Santa filled the air with sounds of "ho-ho-ho" and feeling of good cheer. Immediately following the parade, citizens ventured to the town park located next to New Brockton Town Hall for the lighting of the town's Christmas tree. Afterwards, they enjoyed refreshments while singing Christmas carols. Additional pictures from the parade, can be found in this edition of the paper.

During New Brockton Town Council meeting

Christmas event committees present checks

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The New Brockton Town Council received good reports from Christmas event committees Monday evening, Dec. 8, during the regular monthly meeting of the council.

Members of the town's Christmas parade committee and Christmas pageant committee reported successful events to council members and brought a smile to everyone's face after the pageant committee presented the town with a check for \$795 and the parade committee presented a check for \$205.

Mayor Charles Cole and council members thanked committee members for all of their hardwork in presenting these holiday events, and council member Johnnie Herron said he found out firsthand how time consuming planning such events can be for the volunteers. He said his heart goes out to every person willing to help with events.

Council members handled a couple of requests from police chief Boyd Hartzog as they voted to hire one part-time officer from that position to full-time with a pay increase.

Cole said hiring this officer as a full-time employee will eliminate two part-time positions and save the town some money.

The council also voted to pay part-time police department employees holiday pay if they work on Christmas Day.

The mayor presented a request from Hartzog asking the town council to support moving junk cars.

According to a town ordinance regarding this matter, a letter will be written to the owner asking him/her to do something with the vehicle. Once the letter is received, the owner has 15 days to do something. If the town has the vehicle removed from the property, the owner will have to pay the mover to get it back.

Cole said the town had stopped this procedure for some reason in the past, but he does not think it should be stopped.

In discussion, all council members voiced their support for following the ordinance and moving junk cars.

Council members discussed fixing roof leaks on the town hall building, and Cole presented three different price quotes.

For \$350 the leaky area over the mayor's office can be patched. For \$975 the whole roof can be patched with a one-year guarantee, and for \$5,940 the roof can be completely recovered with a two-year guarantee.

Considering the time limit for guarantees and the cost amount, the council voted to patch the

roof for \$975 with a one-year guarantee.

In other business, the council: * Approved a motion to give employees a one-time pay raise of \$50 for full-time and \$25 for part-time. This is something the town does every year for Christmas.

* Approved a motion to pay the monthly bills totaling \$41,724.65 with \$41,386.65 being prepaid and \$338 to be paid.

* Received a reminder that the town hall offices will be closed Wednesday, Dec. 24, and Thursday, Dec. 25, in observance of the Christmas holiday.

Christmas parade committee members present for the New Brockton Town Council meeting were (from left): Cal Donnia Howard, co-chairperson; Jim Driskell; Barbara Herron, chairperson; and Jerry Haynes. Other committee members include: Elma Brock, Lyn Manley and Deborah Herron.

Area Happenings

THE ELBA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DANCE PROGRAM will hold its graduation ceremony for sixth grade students Friday, Dec. 12, at 9 a.m. in the cafeteria. Everyone is invited to attend.

THE FORT RUCKER "SILVER WINGS" BAND will perform the Commemorative General's Holiday Concert Tuesday, Dec. 16, at 7 p.m. in the Fort Rucker Post Theater. The concert is free and open to the public.

THE ELBA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH will have a Live Ministry on December 13, 20 & 27 on the second floor of the church.

THE TINKERER WOMEN will present a Youth Symposium/Prayer Service in New Brockton on Saturday, Jan. 11, and Sunday, Jan. 12. The Youth Symposium will focus on the theme: "Where do you want to go?" and the Prayer Service will be at 7 p.m. on Sunday.

C.C. Water Authority plans sign-up meeting for Phase II of countywide water system project

The Coffee County Water Authority will hold the first public meeting on Thursday, Dec. 11, at 6:30 p.m., at New Hope Baptist Church to sign-up potential customers for Phase II of the countywide water system.

David Hicks, consulting engineer for the Authority, said the sign-up fee is set at \$25 and will be refunded if water service is not provided to the signee at his property line.

"At a meeting in Coffee

County, 89 percent of the rural residents of Alabama now have access to public water and fire protection," said Steve Pelham, state director of the funding agency - rural development. "At this meeting, the USDA Community Development team developed a 'wish list' for Coffee County which included water system improvements for the north half of Coffee County."

Sign-up forms may be obtained from the engineer by

calling (334) 585-5841 or the Water Authority at 894-9254.

The Water Authority intends to serve only those residents desiring public water and potential fire protection. Areas with a few or no sign-ups may be deleted from the project scope.

According to Hicks, it is imperative those parties interested in the future development of north Coffee County assist in obtaining sign-ups from their neighbors.

It is not too late to be immunized for influenza

While supplies of influenza vaccine are reaching low levels, there is not yet a shortage of vaccine in the state.

"While we have administered thousands of doses of influenza vaccine this year, most county health departments still have some vaccine available," said Winkler Sims, director of the Immunization Division. "December is not too late for Alabamians to be immunized, because influenza season usually peaks in January or February here as it does nationally."

Influenza vaccine can be taken through the end of March. Several groups of people should obtain flu shots because

they are at high risk of complications, such as pneumonia or even death. These groups include persons 50 years old or older; residents of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities that house persons of any age who have long-term illnesses; adults and children who have chronic heart or lung conditions, including asthma; adults and children who need regular medical care or have been in a hospital because of diseases like diabetes, chronic kidney disease, or weakened immune system; women who will be more than 3 months pregnant during the flu season; children 6-23 months of age

and household contacts of high risk people. Influenza is caused by a virus. In an average year, 20 percent of the population experiences influenza. Symptoms include the sudden onset of fever, cough, headache, body aches, mild sore throat and stuffy nose. Severe symptoms last 2-7 days, but the cough can last for weeks. Some patients become so sick that they need hospitalization and some even die.

For more information about the availability of influenza vaccine, contact your local county health department or health care provider.

Commission supports keeping adult daycare facilities open

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The Coffee County Commission pledged its support for two local adult daycare facilities Monday morning, Dec. 8, during the regular bimonthly meeting of the commission. County administrator Wilson Mobley told those in attendance that limited state funding prohibited the State Department of Public Health and Department of Human Resources from being able to work out an agreement to continue operating the adult daycare facilities in Elba and Enterprise. However, he said Wiregrass Rehabilitation Center had been contacted about taking over the operation.

Mobley said the organization is willing to take over but needs a two-year agreement by letter from the commission showing its support of the operation. He said the organization also will request support from the cities of Elba and Enterprise.

In writing the letter of commitment, the commission would agree to continue to support the adult daycare facilities in the same manner they have to this point. This includes paying the rent and insurance on the buildings.

In an attempt to prevent future problems, commissioners approved a request to appoint a secondary supplier for a few paper and food products recently awarded through bids.

As low bidder, Mobley said Houston Paper was awarded the bid for paper plates at a prior meeting. Monday, he said a problem emerged recently when the jail run out of paper plates and Houston Paper could not get a truck to deliver more between a period of Thursday through Tuesday.

Mobley said this put the county in a bind, and plates had to be purchased elsewhere. To avoid this in the future, the commission voted to award a secondary

bid on 12 oz. foam cups, food trays and forks.

The secondary bid for 12 oz. foam cups and forks went to Creel Paper while Enterprise Paper and Janitorial received the secondary bid for food trays.

Commissioners received an update on the current situation of Coffee County EMS as Marvin McLwain, president and spokesperson for the board, addressed the group.

McLwain said Coffee County EMS is in a transition phase from a profit business to a non-profit organization. He said the organization currently serves the City of Elba and the western part of Coffee County.

"We want to assure you as a commission that any agreement you have will be honored at the price and terms of that agreement," McLwain said. "The desire and goal of the committee is to keep this service for the citizens."

He said a six-member board currently oversees the new non-profit organization, and all documentation to operate as a non-profit organization is in place.

In other business, the commission:

* Approved a resolution authorizing the chairman to enter into agreement with the Department of Transportation to begin the process for resurfacing county roads 349, 306, 117, 639 and 603.

* Approved a motion giving

Please See CCC, Page 11



A Coffee County School bus was involved in a three vehicle accident Tuesday, Dec. 9, on County Rd. 223 while transporting students home from school. At the time of the accident, there were only three students on the bus being driven by Sue Hussey. The car directly behind the bus was driven by Sherrie Barker, and she was transported to a local hospital for what appeared to be only minor injuries. A third vehicle, driven by Shannon Bright, hit the rear of Barker's vehicle in the chain reaction incident; however, Bright was not injured. The students were at the front of the bus at the time of impact. They did not appear to be injured but were being treated for precautionary measures. State trooper Furukawa investigated.